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निदेशक
A. A. Mao
Director



भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
भारतीय वनस्पति सर्वेक्षण
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST
& CLIMATE CHANGE
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

DO. No.: BSI – 8/1/PA/2019 / 368

31.01.2025

Madam,

In reply to OM no. 24011/08/2019–GC dated. 25.03.2019 regarding monthly DO letter from Secretary (MoEF&CC) to the Cabinet Secretary, I am furnishing herewith the following major achievements of Botanical Survey of India for the Month of **January, 2025**.

Department: Botanical Survey of India

1. Important policy decisions taken, Major achievements during the month:

Scientists of BSI described **one (01) new taxon as new to Science viz. *Aeschynanthus chayangtajoensis*** - a new species of Gesneriaceae from Arunachal Pradesh. They also reported **five (05) taxa as new additions to India and states viz. *Mitrasacme*** (Loganiaceae), a new generic record from Andaman and Nicobar Islands; *Lactarius hatsudake* (Russulaceae), a wild edible mushroom from East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya; *Mazus motuoensis* (Mazaceae) from the Arunachal Pradesh; *Tateishia retusa* (D. Don) H. Ohashi & K. Ohashi (Fabaceae) a new generic record for Peninsular India and *Erythranthe szechuanensis* (Phrymaceae) from Arunachal Pradesh (Annexure I).

Scientists of BSI conducted **8 field / local tours** and collected **621 field nos.** of specimens. BSI prepared metadata of **6602** herbarium specimens. During this month, **11,24,802** visitors visited the official websites of BSI (**9,09,278** visitors referred official website, **1,05,443** visitors referred archives, and **1,10,081** visitors visited Indian Virtual Herbarium). Besides, more than one lakh persons and 10,000 students physically visited the AJCB IBG, Howrah during this month, through which about 30 lakh revenue was generated.

Important events / programs organized / attended:

1. Dr. A. A. Mao, Director, Botanical Survey of India attended as Chief Guest in the National Botanic Fest, 2025, held at the Statue of Unity, Kevadia, Gujarat on 19.01.2025. He also attended a meeting at the MoEF&CC, New Delhi on 29th & 30th January, 2025.
 2. Dr. S. S. Dash, Scientist-F & In-charge, Technical Section, BSI-HQ, Kolkata visited the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat as an external examiner for defending of Ph. D thesis of Shri. Kanubhai Ojha on 06.01.2025. He also delivered a invited lecture on the topic "Ecological status of invasive plant species in Himalayan region" during the National Seminar on "Biological Invasion: Concerns and Solutions" held at the Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana during 28th & 29th January, 2025.
 3. BSI and EIACP PC-RP on Biodiversity (Flora) organised a one day workshop on 'Herbarium Methodology of Higher Plants' at CNH Auditorium, BSI, Howrah on 23.01.2025. Total 90 UG & PG students of 11 colleges were participated on that workshop. On that occasion Ms. Lipika Roy, Dep. Director, Econ. Div., New Delhi and Mr. Rahul Bhatia, Res. Officer, EIACP Cell also visited our BSI EIACP Centre.
 4. BSI, WRC, Pune and EIACP PC-RP on Biodiversity (Flora), in association with the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB), organized a three-day pilot capacity-building program for the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) members in Maharashtra from 21- 23 January 2025. During the program, a Training Module for Biodiversity Management Committee Members in Marathi language prepared by BSI WRC, Pune. About 65 participants attended this program.
 5. BSI, HQ Kolkata organized a work shop on 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, POSH Act 2013' at Central National Herbarium, Howrah on 06.01.2025. All officers and staff of BSI, Kolkata attended this training.
 6. BSI, ANRC, Port Blair organized a special lecture as a part of 'Mission Life' on "The Changing Paradigm of our Environment" in association with Scientist Unique Researchers Yare Association (SURYA), India and released 30th volume of Flora and Fauna: An International Journal of Biological Sciences on 02.01.2025.
 7. BSI and all its regional centres/ units observed the 76th Republic Day 2025 on 26th January, 2025 and Martyr's Day by maintaining 2 minutes silence on 30th January, 2025.
 8. Dr. Mark Watson, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, visited the AJCB IBG, Howrah and BSI, BGIR, Noida in connection with the Garden development and other collaborative scientific activities in line with the MoU between BSI and RBG, Edinburgh. During this month **27** research papers were published by BSI scientists in International and National publications apart from participating in scientific lectures and publishing seminar abstracts. (Annexure 1).
2. **Important policy matter held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations: NIL**
 3. **No. of cases of 'Sanction for prosecution' pending for more than 3 months: NIL**
 4. **Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the government: NIL**
 5. **Status of Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies:-NA-**
 6. **Information on the specific steps taken for utilization of the space technology based tools and applications in governance and development: NIL**
 7. **Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry/ Department, including Autonomous Bodies/ PSUs: Communicated to the Ministry separately.**
 8. **List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: NIL**

With regards,

Sincerely yours,


A. A. Mao

To

Ms. Nameeta Prasad, JS, (CS-II), MoEF&CC, New Delhi – 3



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Publications for the Month of January 2025

1. KUMAR, M.A., G.A., EKKA, P.A. DHOLE, AND L.J. SINGH. 2024. *Mitrasacme* (Loganiaceae): A new generic record to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Indian Journal of Forestry*, 47(2), pp.118-121. <https://doi.org/10.54207/bsmps1000-2024-68GU5D>
2. MAHADEVAKUMAR S, K. T. MUFEEDA, M. MAHESH, K. R. SRIDHAR, P. V. S. R. N. SARMA, C. DANTESWARI, S. KUMAR, J. MURALEEDHARAN AND S. CHANDRANAYAKA. 2024. An overview of *Poronia* in India and the extended distribution of *P. nagaraholensis* on elephant dung from the Western Ghats of India. *Mycologia India* 2024/05. <https://mycoindia.org/an-overview-of-poronia-in-india-and-the-extended-distribution-of-p-nagaraholensis-on-elephant-dung-from-the-western-ghats-of-india/>
3. MURALI, R., S. KUMAR, J. U. KRISHNAN, D. JAMES, S. MAHADEVAKUMAR AND J. M. JOSE. 2024. Identification and Molecular Characterization of a 16SrV-F Phytoplasma Associated with Little Leaf and Witches' Broom Disease in Jackal Jujube (*Ziziphus oenoplia* L.) in Kerala, India. *Journal of Scientific Research and Reports*, 30(12): 537–547. <https://doi.org/10.9734/jsrr/2024/v30i122698>
4. AJITHKUMAR, K., M. K. NAIK, A. S. SAVITHA, S. MAHADEVAKUMAR, M. Y. SREENIVASA, N. L. RAJESH. 2024. Mapping of endemic and risk free areas for mycotoxigenic fungi and detection of aflatoxin and fumonisin in major maize growing regions of Karnataka, India. *Indian Phytopathology*, 77:955–967. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42360-024-00786-2>
5. HALDER, A.K., S. SAHA, W.ARISDASON AND D. MAITY. 2024. A review on the typification of names in *Gentiana* L. (Gentianaceae): Part III. *Journal of the Botanical Society of Bengal* 78(2): 82–85.
6. MAITY, D., A. K. HALDER, M. MANDAL, B. KARTHIK, E. ANGELIN FELICIA, R. THARANI, AND W.ARISDASON. 2024. Existence of *Gentiana venusta* (G. Don) Wall. ex Griseb. in Indian Eastern Himalayas. *Pleione* 18(3): 413–416.
7. SARAVANAN, T.S. AND S.KALIAMOORTHY.2024. *Tateishia retusa* (D. Don) H. Ohashi & K. Ohashi (Fabaceae): A new generic record for peninsular India. *Indian Forester* 150(12): 1251–1252.
8. REKHA, G., L. PRAKASH, P. RAMESHKUMAR AND SUJANA, K.A. 2024. An account on diversity, distribution and host range of Mistletoes in Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka, India. *Biological Forum* 16(12): 148–153.
9. BENNIAMIN, A., M. S. SUNDARI, D. JESUBALAN, SAKSHI PANDEY, RAJAT MONDAL, KAUSHIK SARKAR, RAJESHWAR DAYAL AND SAMPADA KANK 2024. Intraspecific variation of pteridophytes from the Western Ghats, India, *Indian Fern Journal*, 41(2), 205-218.
10. BENNIAMIN, A., KAUSHIK SARKAR, SAMPADA KANK, SAKSHI PANDEY, RAJAT MONDAL AND RAJESHWAR DAYAL 2024. Cytology of Some ferns from the central Western Ghats (Karnataka), India, *Indian Fern Journal*, 41(2), 219-226.
11. BENNIAMIN, SAKSHI PANDEY, M. S. SUNDARI, RAJAT MONDAL, KAUSHIK SARKAR, RAJESHWAR DAYAL AND SAMPADA KANK 2024. Distribution of the Genus *Bolbitis* Schott in the Western Ghats of India. *Indian Fern Journal*, 41(2), 227-238.
12. BHAGURE POOJA SHIVAJI, NILESH MADHAV, ASHWINI MOHITE, ANUBHAB MONDAL, KUMAR VINOD GOSAVI, JAGDISH DALAVI AND MAYUR KAMBLE 2024 'Typification and cytology of 'Arabian Wax Cissus' (*Cissus rotundifolia* Lam.)' *Phytomorphology* 74: 77-88.
13. KANDWAL M. K. AND R. KUMAR. 2024. A Note on the Occurrence of *Zea mexicana* in Uttarakhand *Phytotaxonomy* 3: 2, 2024. pp. 48-52.
14. BHATTACHARJEE, A. AND S. BANDYOPADHYAY. 2024. *Polyalthia longifolia* var. *pendula* (Annonaceae) – Not a validly published name. *Pleione* 18(3): 393–394.

15. NARUKULLA, V. LAHANE, Y.; UGE, P.; PANDEY, S.; FISKE, K.; KAWALE, K.; JAGANNADHAM, P.T.K. AND ZIOGAS V. 2024. Production of Triploid Seedless Sweet Orange [*Citrus sinensis* (L.) Osbeck] cv. Mosambi: A Success Story. *Agronomy* 14. 829.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy14040829>
16. DEROLIYA, P.K. AND S.L. MEENA 2025. (3064) Proposal to conserve the name *Delphinium candelabrum* Ostenf. Against *D. candelabrum* (B.K. Bliss & S.B. Bliss) Neubert (Ranunculaceae). *Taxon* 74(1) [Early view]. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.13305>
17. RAWAT, V.K. AND DEROLIYA, P.K. Taxonomic study of the genus *Drynaria* (Bory) J.Sm. (Polypodiaceae) in North-East India. *Indian Fern Journal* 41(2): 239–248. 2024.
18. RAWAT, V.K. AND DEROLIYA, P.K. Indian Vittarioid Ferns: An overview. *Pleione* 18(3): 373–386. 2024.
19. SINGH, S., P.K. DEROLIYA, V. TRIPATHI, S. SHEKHAR AND V.K. MADHUKAR. 2024. A review on *Manilkara hexandra* (Roxb.) Dubard: an economically important tree with conservation notes. *Phytotaxonomy* 3(2): 53–67. Singh R.K. & Rawat V.K. New combinations in *Selliguea* (Polypodiaceae, Crypsinoideae). *J. Biodivers. Conservation* 7 (4): 1-3. 2024
20. SARAVANAN, R., SUDESHNA DATTA AND TAPAN SEAL. 2025. Nutritional analysis and antioxidant activity of *Victoria amazonica* seeds: Evaluating its potential as a future food source. *South African Journal of Botany*, 178, 61-72.
21. CHAKRABORTY, D., D. TUDU, A. GHOSH AND K. DAS 2025. First record of *Lactarius hatsudake* (Russulaceae), a wild edible mushroom from India. *Indian Forester* 151 (1): 43-48.
22. CHOWLU, K., R. MAITY, A. RAY AND K. A. A. KABEER. 2024. *Mazus motuoensis* (Mazaceae): An addition to the Indian flora. *Indian J. For.* 47: 115-117.
23. CHOWLU, K., A. SHENOY, A. RAY AND K. A. A. KABEER. 2024. *Aeschynanthus chayangtajoensis* - a new species of Gesneriaceae from Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Phytotaxa* 678 (1): 065–070
24. CHOWLU, K., A. SHENOY AND A. RAY. 2024. *Erythranthe szechuanensis* (Phrymaceae): a new addition to Indian Flora. *Rheedea*. 34(4): 221–224.

Book

1. BENNIAMIN A., MAYUR KAMBLE, JAGADISH DALAVI AND POOJA BHAGURE. 2025. Pilot Capacity Building Programme for the BMCs in Maharashtra (in Marathi language). Edition 1st pp. 1-183. Prarup publication, Kolhapur. ISBN 978-81-970623-1-5.

Book Chapter:

1. NAITHANI, H.B. AND KANDWAL, M.K. 2023. On the identity and nomenclature of a climbing bamboo *Melocalamus maccllellandii*. *Indian Journal of Forestry*, 46(4), pp.218-224. <https://doi.org/10.54207/bsmps1000-2024-QVE073>
2. GARG ARTI AND S.K. SINGH. 2024. Taxonomy, Demography and Status of Threatened *Phlomis superba* (Royle ex Benth.) Kamelin & Makhm. In Mishra A.P., Kumar A, Chandra N., Singh G. & Pande CB. (eds.) Threatened Medicinal Plants in the Indian Himalayan Region – Sustainability challenges and Conservation strategies. Springer Nature Switzerland AG, Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland. Pp. 209–219. [ISBN 978-3-031-73686-5].